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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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THE following letter has ſo genuine and natural an air, that I cannot doubt of it's coming from a correſpondent, who has experienced every circumſtance he has deſcribed; I ſhall therefore lay it before my readers without the alteration of a ſingle word.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM,

SIR,

AMONG the variety of ſubjects with which you have entertained and inſtructed the public, I do not remember that you have any where touched upon the folly and madneſs of ambition; which for the benefit of all thoſe

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who are diſſatisfied with their preſent ſituations, I beg leave to illuſtrate by giving the hiſtory of my own life.

I AM the ſon of a younger brother of a good family, who at his deceaſe left me a little fortune of a hundred pounds a year. I was put early to Eton ſchool, where I learnt Latin and Greek, from whence I went to the univerſity, where I learnt—— not totally to forget them. I came to my fortune while I was at college; and having no inclination to follow any profeſſion, I removed myſelf to town, and lived for ſome time, as moſt young gentlemen do, by ſpending four times my income. But it was my happineſs, before it was too late, to fall in love, and to marry a very amiable young creature, whoſe fortune was juſt ſufficient to repair the breach made in my own. With this agreeable companion I retreated to the country, and endeavoured as well as I was able to ſquare my wiſhes to my circumſtances. In this endeavour I ſucceeded ſo well, that excepting a few private hankerings after a little more than I poſſeſſed, and now and then a ſigh when a coach and ſix happened to drive by me in my walks, I was a very happy man.

I CAN truly aſſure you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that though our family œconomy was not much to be boaſted of, and in conſequence of it, we were frequently driven to great ſtreights and difficulties, I experienced more real ſatisfaction in this humble ſituation, than I have ever done ſince in more enviable circumſtances. We were ſometimes indeed a little in debt, but when money came in, the pleaſure of diſcharging what we owed was more than an equivalent for the pain it put us to: and though the narrowneſs of our circumſtances ſubjected us to many cares and anxieties, it ſerved to keep the body in action

action as well as the mind: for as our garden was somewhat large, and required more hands to keep it in order than we could afford to hire, we laboured daily in it ourſelves, and drew health from our neceſſities.

I HAD a little boy, who was the delight of my heart, and who probably might have been ſpoilt by nurſing, if the attention of his parents had not been otherwiſe employed. His mother was naturally of a ſickly conſtitution, but the affairs of her family, as they engroſſed all her thoughts, gave her no time for complaint. The ordinary troubles of life, which to thoſe who have nothing elſe to think of, are almoſt inſupportable, were leſs terrible to us, than to perſons in eaſier circumſtances: for it is a certain truth, however your readers may pleaſe to receive it, that where the mind is divided between many cares, the anxiety is lighter than where there is only one to contend with. Or even in the happieſt ſituation, in the midſt of eaſe, health and affluence, the mind is generally ingenious at tormenting itſelf, loſing the immediate enjoyment of thoſe invaluable bleſſings, by the painful ſuggeſtion that they are too great for continuance.

THESE are the reflections that I have made ſince: for I do not attempt to deny that I ſighed frequently for an addition to my fortune. The death of a diſtant relation, which happened five years after our marriage, gave me this addition, and made me for a time the happieſt man living. My income was now increaſed to ſix hundred a year; and I hoped, with a little œconomy, to be able to make a figure with it. But the ill health of my wife, which in leſs eaſy circumſtances had not touched me ſo nearly, was now conſtantly in my thoughts, and ſoured all my enjoyment. The conſciouſneſs too

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of having ſuch an eſtate to leave to my boy, made me ſo anxious to preſerve him, that inſtead of ſuffering him to run at pleaſure where he pleaſed, and to grow hardy by exerciſe, I almoſt deſtroyed him by confinement. We now did nothing in our garden, becauſe we were in circumſtances to have it kept by others: but as air and exerciſe were neceſſary for our healths, we reſolved to abridge ourſelves in ſome unneceſſary articles, and to ſet up an equipage. This in time brought with it a train of expences, which we had neither prudence to foreſee, nor courage to prevent. For as it enabled us to extend the circuit of our viſits, it greatly encreaſed our acquaintance, and ſubjected us to the neceſſity of making continual entertainments at home, in return for all thoſe which we were invited to abroad. The charges that attended this new manner of living were much too great for the income we poſſeſſed; inſomuch that we found ourſelves in a very ſhort time more neceſſitous than ever. Pride would not ſuffer us to lay down our equipage; and to live in a manner unſuitable to it, was what we could not bear to think of. To pay the debts I had contracted, I was ſoon forced to mortgage, and at laſt to ſell, the beſt part of my eſtate; and as it was utterly impoſſible to keep up the parade any longer, we thought it adviſeable to remove of a ſudden, to ſell our coach in town, and to look out for a new ſituation, at a great diſtance from our acquaintance.

But unfortunately for my peace, I carried the habit of expence along with me, and was very near being reduced to abſolute want, when by the unexpected death of an uncle and his two ſons, who died within a few weeks of each other, I ſucceeded to an eſtate of ſeven thouſand pounds a year.

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And now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, both you and your readers will undoubtedly call me a very happy man: and ſo indeed I was. I ſet about the regulation of my family with the moſt pleaſing ſatisfaction. The ſplendor of my equipages, the magnificence of my plate, the crowd of ſervants that attended me, the elegance of my houſe and furniture, the grandeur of my park and gardens, the luxury of my table, and the court that was every where paid me, gave me inexpreſſible delight, ſo long as they were novelties: but no ſooner were they become habitual to me, than I loſt all manner of reliſh for them; and I diſcovered in a very little time, that by having nothing to wiſh for, I had nothing to enjoy. My appetite grew palled by ſatiety, a perpetual crowd of viſitors robbed me of all domeſtic enjoyment, my ſervants plagued me, and my ſteward cheated me.

But the curſe of greatneſs did not end here. Daily experience convinced me that I was compelled to live more for others than myſelf. My uncle had been a great party man, and a zealous oppoſer of all miniſterial meaſures; and as his eſtate was the largeſt of any gentleman's in the county, he ſupported an intereſt in it beyond any of his competitors. My father had been greatly obliged by the court party, which determined me in gratitude to declare myſelf on that ſide: but the difficulties I had to encounter were too many and too great for me; inſomuch that I have been baffled and defeated in almoſt every thing I have undertaken. To deſert the cauſe I have embarked in would diſgrace me; and to go greater lenghts in it will almoſt undo me. I am engaged in a perpetual ſtate of warfare with the principal gentry of the county, and am curſed by my tenants and dependants for compelling them at every election to vote (as they are pleaſed to tell me) contrary to their conſcience.

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